

# UML Shuttle

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL

## Congressman Martin T. Meehan Chosen to Lead Lowell Campus

*UML Alum will Assume the Chancellorship July 1*

Acting on the recommendation of UMass President Jack M. Wilson, the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees has unanimously selected U.S. Rep. Martin T. Meehan as the new chancellor of UMass Lowell.

"Congressman Meehan has a proven record of accomplishment. He is a leader, an innovator and has a demonstrated passion for higher education in general and UMass Lowell in particular. I believe that Marty Meehan will be a truly outstanding chancellor. Marty Meehan won the hearts and minds of the campus constituencies during this process. We are very fortunate that he is willing to leave Congress in order to come home to UMass Lowell," President Wilson said in nominating him for the position.

Rep. Meehan is expected to assume the UMass Lowell chancellorship on July 1. He succeeds former Chancellor William T. Hogan, who retired last year after serving as the leader of the Lowell campus for 25 years. David J. MacKenzie has been serving as interim chancellor since Dr. Hogan's retirement.

The UMass trustees voted on the Meehan appointment at their March meeting at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester. Wilson communicated the decision to the Lowell campus via e-mail immediately after the vote.

Wilson noted that Meehan's candidacy "has generated enthusiasm among faculty, students, community leaders and industry figures, many of whom called and wrote to me to express their feelings about the next chancellor. His visit to the campus was seen as inspiring by many of the University community." [See the full text of President Wilson's message to the campus in eNews at [www.uml.edu/news](http://www.uml.edu/news).]

Enthusiasm ran high when the UMass President introduced Meehan to the UML community at a campus reception held the same day as the vote. Hundreds of faculty, students, staff, community leaders, elected officials and Meehan friends and family members packed Alumni Hall for the introduction, despite it being the campus's spring break. Formal remarks were followed by an impromptu presentation of gifts to the new campus leader as well as questions from the dozens of media in attendance.



▲ Congressman Marty Meehan is surrounded by his wife, Ellen Murphy, and his sons Daniel, left, and Robert as he addresses those welcoming him as the newly named chancellor.

Meehan elicited boisterous laughter from the crowd when a reporter asked if he would endorse any of the candidates to replace him in Congress. Meehan responded, "We in academia don't get involved in elective politics."

Rep. Meehan, a Lowell native and UMass Lowell alumnus, has served in Congress since 1993, representing Massachusetts' Fifth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Previously, he served

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### Comments from Political Leaders

"I know he will make an excellent Chancellor."

— U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives

"Our loss in the Congressional delegation will certainly be UMass Lowell's gain."

— U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy

"With Marty at the helm, the University will no doubt continue to grow and strengthen the region's economic resurgence."

— U.S. Sen. John F. Kerry

"His strong intellect and political acumen will benefit the entire UMass Lowell community."

— U.S. Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Malden), dean of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation

"UMass is lucky to get him."

— Thomas Reilly, former state Attorney General and Middlesex County District Attorney

"He truly understands the role [of] public higher education."

— Wayne Budd, former U.S. Attorney

### Comments from Business Leaders

"He has the leadership qualities to help the University sustain the pipeline of talented graduates."

— William H. Swanson, chairman and CEO of Raytheon Co.

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▲ Heather Makrez, UML student trustee and search committee member, presents Chancellor-Elect Marty Meehan with a UML tie and lapel pin.



▲ UMass President Jack Wilson and new Chancellor Marty Meehan



▲ Interim Chancellor David MacKenzie introduces UMass President Jack Wilson and soon-to-be Chancellor Marty Meehan to the campus.



▲ The room was packed with well-wishers as Chancellor-Elect Marty Meehan addressed the campus for the first time as its new leader.



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Stephen P. Tocco, chairman of the UMass Board of Trustees, said he was "very impressed" by the search process that resulted in the selection of Rep. Meehan.

"This process has been very focused and very efficient," Tocco said. "This is a clear example of an outstanding process leading to the selection of a truly outstanding leader. I am confident that Marty Meehan will lead UMass Lowell to new heights. He is the right leader at the right moment."

Meehan, who has been described as one of the most effective members of Congress, said he was "pleased and honored" to be assuming the leadership of his alma mater.

"I owe the success that I have enjoyed in my life to the education and opportunities I received at UMass Lowell," Meehan said. "The University of Massachusetts is the indispensable university. I firmly believe that the University of Massachusetts will be the key to our success as a Commonwealth, and certainly UMass Lowell will shape the future of its region."

"A very great responsibility has been entrusted to me. Higher education transforms lives and transforms us as people. I can think of no more important work and no greater calling, and I thank President Wilson and the Board of Trustees for placing their confidence in me and for providing me with this chance to make a lasting contribution to our students and our state," Meehan added.

His appointment to the Lowell chancellorship brings a formal end to the search process that began last August, when President Wilson established a 21-member chancellor search committee, asking the panel to identify candidates who could lead the campus into "a new era of growth." Last month, the committee selected three finalists: Rep. Meehan, David C. Chang, chancellor of the Polytechnic University in Brooklyn, and Nabil A. Ibrahim, vice chancellor for academic affairs and chief academic officer at Purdue University-Calumet.

"This has been a thorough and comprehensive search process. Our search committee reviewed more than 100 candidacies, interviewed nine candidates and ultimately came forward with three outstanding finalists. The University owes a debt of gratitude to the search committee and to the hundreds of members of the UMass Lowell community who participated in this process," Wilson said.

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There weren't many racquetballs pounding the walls at the Campus Rec Center during Spring Break, but the Patrick Administration's budget took some hits in a meeting room there. Sen. Steven C. Panagiotakos, vice chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, co-chaired a committee hearing in which court Chief Justices and related agency heads reported that the Administration's budget proposal for the next fiscal year underfunds basic needs.

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▲ Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court Margaret Marshall requested additional funds for the court from state legislators during a Ways and Means Committee hearing. She is joined by Chief Justice of the Appeals Court Phillip Rapoza, left, and Chief Justice for Administration and Management Robert Mulligan.

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The Shuttle is published by the Publications Office, UMass Lowell, One University Avenue, Lowell, MA 01854 Tel. 934-3223.

Executive Director of Communications: Patricia McCafferty

Editor: Mary Lou Hubbell

Staff Writers: Geoffrey Douglas Jack McDonough

Other Writers: Renae Lias Claffey Sheila Eppolito Jennifer Hanson Morgan Hough Elizabeth James Kristen O'Reilly Sandra Seitz

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## Minkkinen Photos Featured in New York Times Magazine

*Rock Climbing Assignment was Full of Firsts*

For the first photo assignment of his career, Arno Minkkinen, professor in the Art Department and world-renowned photographer, had a doozie.

The call from the New York Times came in on a Thursday. Would he photograph the top women rock climbers in the country? He was delighted and agreed quickly, he says, "because you have to be ready to say yes immediately when opportunities come along."

By Sunday he was on his way to Yosemite Valley, California. On Monday, he climbed the 3,000-foot vertical granite face of El Capitan tied to a climbing partner with a single rope. At the top, he tucked himself into a crevice to get a photo of Beth Rodden suspended from the mountainside. Then, he rappelled down.

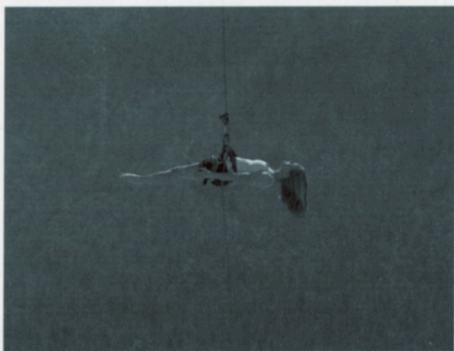
That was the first time he climbed and the first time he rappelled.



▲ Arno Minkkinen perched on ledges and was suspended on climbing ropes to get the images of the women climbers for the New York Times assignment. Photos in the *New York Times* magazine, *Play*.

Although he had once shot a billboard campaign in Germany, "this assignment was the first time I was doing portraits of people, following a very tight itinerary and shooting in public places," the photographer says.

His rock climbing images appeared in the March 2007 issue of



▲ This photo of Beth Rodden, a leading U.S. woman rock climber, led six pages of Arno Minkkinen's photos in the *New York Times* magazine, *Play*.

*Play*, a New York Times seasonal sports magazine. Times photo editors called his shots "vibrant and soulful."

"These photos capture what rock climbers know," Minkkinen says. "You have to trust the other person with your life. Pictures like these show the spiritual journey of the climbers."

"I think they asked me to do this photo shoot because they thought I was a rock climber," says Minkkinen. "They had been looking at my work and assumed there was no other way I could have gotten some of my photos." Minkkinen is known for his haunting self-portraits in nature, many of which seem to defy natural laws such as gravity.

"I think I earned a sort of respect from the climbers when they realized I had gotten those shots without the ropes and safety equipment that are part of rock climbing," he says. "They could respect someone who could do this as an athlete. They were willing to work with me because I wasn't afraid."

Minkkinen calls his climbing experience "an adventure. It gave me a jolt of adrenaline. At 61, I became like 41." He adds that his own work may benefit from learning about the use of ropes in climbing "because it opens up other ideas of things I can do that are a little more dangerous."

He is also aware of the increased exposure his photos will get by appearing in the *New York Times*.

"The circulation of the Times is huge," he points out. "This gets my work out there in a way exhibits never could."

## O'Connell Wins Prestigious Commonwealth Award

*Former Tsongas Center Leader Honored at State House*

This year, Lowell's prominence in the state's arts and culture arena was evident as two of the five recipients of the Commonwealth Awards were given to people with ties to the Mill City.

The Commonwealth Awards are the state's highest honors in the arts, humanities and sciences. They are given by the Massachusetts Cultural Council to outstanding individuals and organizations in five different categories.

Peter O'Connell, the recently retired director of the Tsongas Industrial History Center, received the award at a State House ceremony for his 40-year career in history education. After coming to the Tsongas Center in 1996, O'Connell developed and oversaw educational programs for more than 60,000 students annually, showcasing the City's resources and role in the industrial revolution. Under his leadership, he also spearheaded teacher training programs that attracted educators from across the country.

"As museum educators, we live at the edge of the museum or park and the world of the schools. We are educational brokers creat-



▲ Peter O'Connell, left, recently retired director of the Tsongas Center, received the prestigious Commonwealth Award at the State House.

ing experiential learning in non-traditional settings," says O'Connell. "This is especially true in a University, which is focused on research and teaching of undergraduates while the Tsongas Center, on the other hand, is primarily working with students in grades 3-8 and with their teachers. So it is doubly rewarding to receive this recognition to cap off my career and recognize the work of all the history museum educators in the Commonwealth."

Also receiving the Commonwealth Award was the staff of the Revolving Museum. Located in downtown Lowell, the museum was honored for its cultural offerings, which include a wide range of youth programs, public art projects and collaborations with the University.

## Renowned University-Community Partnership Expert Visiting UML

*Dr. Barbara Holland to Address UMass' Commitment*

When the state university system of California wanted to ensure that its system-wide university-community partnership efforts were comprehensive and coordinated, they turned to Dr. Barbara Holland.

"Dr. Holland is the pre-eminent scholar in the growing area of university-community partnerships," says Prof. Linda Silka, director of the Center for Family, Work and Community and co-chair of CITA, a committee devoted to exploring facets of successful partnerships. "We're honored to have her attend our conference."



▲ Dr. Barbara Holland, renowned scholar in university-community partnerships, will attend UMass Lowell's CITA conference in April. Dr. Holland will participate in a presentation by Keith Motley, UMass vice president for Business Marketing and Public Affairs.

Holland will join hundreds of other professionals at the CITA conference in April, when she'll sit in on a session led by Keith Motley, UMass vice president for Business Marketing and Public Affairs, that looks at UMass' system-wide community engagement efforts. Holland will analyze material presented by campus representatives and make recommendations.

Hundreds of practitioners from as far away as India and South Africa will attend the conference. For more information, go to [www.uml.edu/com/cita/index.html](http://www.uml.edu/com/cita/index.html).

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## College of Management Announces Entrepreneurship Concentration

they didn't have to work. That way, they could be more fully involved in internships and team projects."

Information regarding the Entrepreneurship Concentration is available on the College of

Management website. For additional information please contact Prof. Tello at [Steven\\_Tello@uml.edu](mailto:Steven_Tello@uml.edu), or by phone at (978) 934-4240.



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